

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05034 251918Z
ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8553

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STADIS//////////

NEA/GREEN FROM NAAS

E.O. 11652: N/U
TAGS: BEXP, IR
SUBJ: FUTURE OF TEHRAN TRADE CENTER

1. I HOPE THAT OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS PRIOR TO LEAVING FOR TEHRAN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP AN EAR TO THE GROUND AS TO THE LIKELY FUTURE OF THE TRADE CENTER HERE. WHILE WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT THE FINAL DECISION ON ANY CLOSING WILL NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE MADE BY COMMERCE AFTER WEIGHING ALL THE FACTS, WE DO HOPE THAT COMMERCE WILL GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FINAL COMMENT BEFORE MAKING ITS DECISION. COMMERCE UNDER SECRETARY HARMON AND MESSRS ZUCCA AND RAU FROM STATE, PLUS STANSBURY AND GARNITZ FROM USDOC HAVE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THERE WOULD BE AN OPEN AND CANDID DIALOGUE WITH THE POST ON THIS MATTER. WE WOULD PARTICULARLY VALUE KNOWING THE CRITERIA, IF AND WHEN THESE ARE DRAWN UP, WHICH WILL BE USED TO DETERMINE WHICH CENTERS WILL BE CLOSED. USTC DIRECTOR HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS THAT CENTER HERE IS DEFINITELY SLATED TO BE CLOSED BY SEPTEMBER BUT WE SIMPLY HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING HOW AUTHORITATIVE THESE ADVICES ARE.

2. AGAIN, THE REALLY IMPORTANT ISSUE TO KEEP BEFORE COMMERCE
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 05034 251918Z

IN YOUR CONVERSATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF THE CENTER HERE IS THE IMPORTANCE AS WE SEE IT OF A FULL PRESENTATION TO US OF THE PROS AND CONS RE A CLOSING SO THAT THE POST CAN HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO FORMULATE A COHERENT RESPONSE BEFORE THE DECISION IS IN CONCRETE.

3. WE WOULD VERY MUCH WELCOME, OF COURSE, RECEIVING IN THIS

CHANNEL WHATEVER AUTHORITATIVE STRAWS IN THE WIND YOU CAN PICK
UP OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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